

## Besson Awards Recognize Procurement Excellence

At a recent U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) conference in Fort Lauderdale, FL, Michelle L. Weinert, Matthew G. Meinert, and MAJ Daniel M. Munoz received the Frank S. Besson Award for Procurement Excellence. GEN John G. Coburn, AMC's Commanding General, presented the awards during a ceremony to recognize the awardees for their accomplishments.

The prestigious Besson Award was established in honor of GEN Frank S. Besson, the first AMC Commander, and his lifelong achievements in acquisition. The award recognizes individual excellence in the AMC contracting workforce. Selection is based on demonstrated technical expertise and development and implementation of innovative procurement-related ideas or processes in support of AMC's mission. Awards are made annually to recognize exceptional achievements by an intern, a civilian careerist, and a military officer within AMC.

Contract Specialist Michelle L. Weinert, the intern recipient of the 2000 Besson Award, started her contracting career with the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM), Fort Monmouth, NJ, in 1998. Weinert was commended for her initiative, resourcefulness, and customer-focused approach in accomplishing diverse and complex assignments typically reserved for journeyman contract specialists. She performed a range of duties from market research through contract close-out and even provided training to her co-workers. Her contributions in effectively using and demonstrating a variety of electronic contracting tools, including her efforts at the National Contract Management Association World Congress 2000, were particularly noteworthy. Weinert is an active member of the National Contract Management Association. She is Level II certified in contracting, holds a B.S. in international business and Spanish, and is pursuing an M.B.A. degree at Monmouth University.

Matthew G. Meinert is a Procurement Analyst at CECOM, with more than 16 years of Army civilian service. He was honored for his knowledge and leadership in the development of electronic business tools that have placed CECOM at the forefront of Web-based electronic commerce technology. His initiatives have revolutionized the way CECOM contracts for goods and services. Meinert served as Project Leader for both the award-winning Interactive Business Opportunity Page, known as the Army's "Single Face to Industry," and the Electronic Reverse Auctioning Project. His expertise in developing these and other e-tools has enabled CECOM to realize dollar savings of more than 40 percent in comparison with traditional prices. Meinert's contributions in electronic commerce and contracting extend well beyond his command and the Army. Many senior government officials, including former Secretary of Defense William Cohen and former Secretary of State Dr. Madeline Albright, have formally recognized him for his efforts. Meinert is a graduate of Wheeling Jesuit University and is Level III certified in contracting.

MAJ Daniel M. Munoz, a Contracting Officer in the Apache Attack Helicopter Project Office, Redstone Arsenal, AL, was recognized for his dedication, demonstration of initiative, technical competence, and leadership, which were instrumental to the timely success of a source selection evaluation for the Modernized Target Acquisition Designation Sight/Pilot Night Vision Sensor. Munoz managed all aspects of this critical Army system procurement and provided expert guidance to a selection board of approximately 100 evaluators representing many disciplines. He skillfully controlled the dialogue with industry to ensure a common understanding of requirements and to facilitate achievement of the Army's acquisition objectives. Munoz's efforts culminated in the award of a complex \$80 million engineering and manufacturing development cost-plus-incentive-fee contract. The chairman of the Source Selection Evaluation Board (SSEB), who has been involved in five major source selections, noted Munoz's contributions to the SSEB, stating "... your outstanding performance and dedication to duty stand out above the rest. Your personal efforts were key to getting the job done." Munoz has more than 16 years of military service. He holds a B.A. in business management and an M.A. in procurement and acquisition management. He is also Level II certified in contracting and has received numerous military awards and decorations.

Each October, AMC requests nominations for the Besson Award. Procedural guidance for the award is contained in AMC Regulation 672-10 and can be accessed at <http://www.amc.army.mil/amc/rda/rda-ac/besson99/besson.htm>. For additional information, please contact Scott Crosson at (703) 617-0544 or [scrosson@hqamc.army.mil](mailto:scrosson@hqamc.army.mil).

## Brandler Wins Laboratory Director Of The Year Award

U.S. Army Natick Soldier Systems Center Director Philip Brandler recently won the 2000 Laboratory Director of the Year Award for his exemplary contributions to technology transfer for economic development at the Natick, MA, facility. The competition for this national award, sponsored by the Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) for Technology Transfer, is open to more than 700 federal research and development laboratories and centers nationwide.

Technology transfer is an integral part of Natick's mission of conducting research, development, testing, and evaluation focused on maximizing a soldier's survivability, combat effectiveness, and quality of life in the field. Brandler has been influential in ensuring that every opportunity is taken to effect transfer of technologies through avenues such as Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRDAs), formal and informal partnerships, and consortia. His efforts resulted in the establishment of the National Protection Center, a joint agency pilot program that provides state-of-the-art protective equipment to military personnel and civilian emergency responders, which saved millions of taxpayer dollars.

## AWARDS

Under Brandler's leadership, the Natick Soldier Systems Center Web site now includes industry partnering and promotion of technology transfer information. His leadership success in technology transfer is also evidenced by the 37 active CRDAs in which Natick Soldier Systems Center participates as well as the 8 Dual Use Science and Technology Program projects during the past 4 years.

Another notable example of Brandler's leadership success in technology transfer is his receipt of the 1999 FLC Excellence in Technology Transfer Award for achieving a technical breakthrough in developing shelf-stable pocket sandwiches for military and commercial use.

### David Packard Excellence In Acquisition Award Winner Announced

David R. Oliver, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, has selected the 2001 Army winner of the David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Award for FY00 achievements. The winner, a team that worked on the Small Computer Program at the U.S. Army Communications-Electronic Command (CECOM), will be recognized during Acquisition and Logistics Excellence Week at a Pentagon ceremony on Sept. 10, 2001. The team was nominated by BG Michael R. Mazzucchi, CECOM Deputy for Systems Acquisition, Office of the Director, Systems Management Center and MG Robert L. Nabors, Commanding General, CECOM HQ, Fort Monmouth, NJ.

The David Packard Award is the highest DOD acquisition award. It recognizes teams that have made highly significant contributions that demonstrate exemplary innovation and best-acquisition practices. The Army Small Com-

puter Program team successfully negotiated a series of software enterprise agreements that resulted in discounted prices and leveraged the combined buying power of the Army and DOD.

Oliver also selected three Army recipients of the Defense Acquisition Executive (DAE) Certificate of Achievement. The DAE Certificate of Achievement, which will also be presented during Acquisition and Logistics Excellence Week, recognizes organizations, groups, and teams for exceptional contributions in reducing life-cycle costs and/or improving DOD's acquisition systems and programs.

CECOM's Acquisition Center "Reverse" Auctioning Project Team was chosen for the DAE certificate for its initiative in demonstrating how auctioning, particularly reverse auctioning, can provide a timely and viable approach to advance acquisition reform.

The Joint Program Office for Biological Defense Joint Field Trial Team, another recipient of the DAE certificate, will be recognized for providing the biological defense acquisition community with proven technologies that can be inserted at any point in a program's life cycle to reduce performance risk, cost, and schedule time.

Finally, the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command's Systems Engineering and Technical Assistance Contract Team was selected for the DAE certificate for using standard templates when receiving or issuing new or revised requirements, and for receiving proposals and/or task management plans. These templates allowed the team to save time and money by reducing both the requiring activity's preparation time and the contract specialist's time.

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